TO OUR HOME TOWN READERS OF

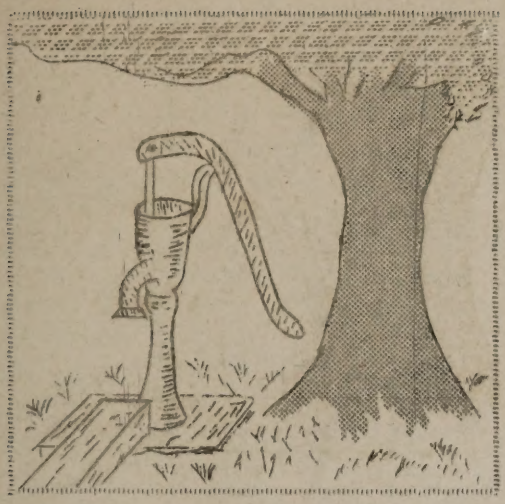
THE TOWN PUMP

Once more we would like to give our Boys and Girls who are now in the Service, or who have been discharged, a Christmas present - probably for the last time.

To eliminate the necessary expenses that accompany a dance, or any social party, we are this year asking for direct contributions to our Christmas Fund.

Should you be solicited, we hope you will be generous for our needs to supply each of the 120 in the Service are about $ 400.00.

Should you be overlooked in our soliciting, or should you be an out of town friend of the Ashby boys and girls, we would gratefully receive and acknowledge any donation sent to The Town Pump, Ashby, Mass.



THE ASHBY TOWN PUMP

VOL 2 SEPT. 1945 NO. 3

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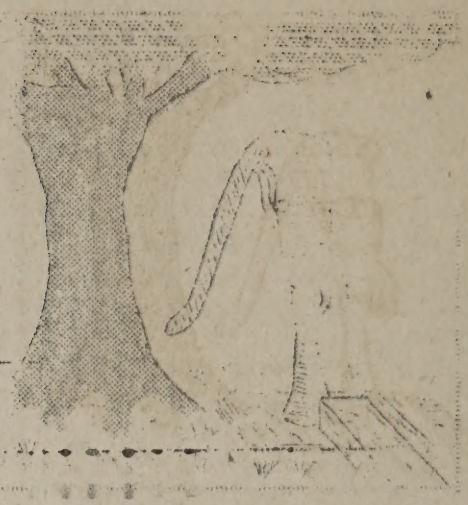
Well, it came at last, the long awaited word, direct from President Truman, that Japan had surrendered, accepting our terms. We had all been tense and alert since we had heard whisperings and uncertain reports of what was to come any minute. It was quite a wait, but we did get going almost before the 7 P.M. on Aug. 14 was over. Men, women, children and young people appeared as if by magic, all going upstreet in sight of the Common where both church bells were already ringing. Autos soon converged the Common and there was much tooting of horns and of our own fire siren. Mr. Harold White and Mr. George Brooks did their part, pounding on an old metal wash tub and a tin pail--almost to pieces. Strangers in cars passing thru the town waved and yelled as if they had allways known us. It was a perfect night to be out. It was the last of the new moon and it shown brightly, driving small dark clouds away from it, like a good omen. The night was warmish but with a nice fresh breeze. After the first wild demonstration, Gippy got out his drum and an impromptu march was started up and down the street with even a baby carriage in the parade. Many others, both men and women, took a whack at pulling the bell ropes, so they could say they rang the bell for this great victory, which means so much to all of you in the Service and to those anxiously awaiting at home. All breathed a silent prayer of thanksgiving, some cried with joy and tears came into the eyes of the former veterans as they remembered that other "Cease firing" and know what it will mean to you all. We kept it up until the wee small hours of the morning, not without thoughts of sadness for those who will not be coming home. Let us hope we always remember their sacrifices and that Peace will stay with us evermore.

Clara Durkee

OUR LAST JOB

The editors of the "Town Pump" are looking forward to the time when we can say "adieu," for then it will mean that you'll all be home and the need for our contact with you will have ended. There is, however, one last job we should like to do, something that was not done

THE ASHBY TOWN PUMP



after World War I.

We would like to prepare, in appropriate book form, the service record of every Ashby boy and girl who entered the U.S. Armed Services. We had in mind listing not only the formal service record but including an informal story of each person's biography during his days in the service. It might be possible to include a Photograph with each record.

All this is, of course, dependent on your desire to have it done, for we will need your cooperation and O.K. If you think it's a good idea, why not drop us a line and tell us.

YOUR FUTURE JOB

No doubt many of you who look forward to discharge in the near future are wondering what your chances are of getting a new job or your old job back. We feel your chances are extremely bright and can quote to you a few figures about Fitchburg's immediate future business.

Fitchburg, to whom many of us are dependent - directly or indirectly - for a living, looks to a very healthy and bright future. Her industries are well diversified, financially sound, and for the most part progressive. A recent survey among manufacturers shows that their anticipated post war business calls for 10% more employees than were working during their all time and war time peak, and 30% more than pre-war levels. Add to these figures the fact that many people working now will retire because of age or to return to their homes, and you come out with a potential shortage. Perhaps this is too optomistic, but you can rest assured that there will be a job waiting for you.

THE MISSING ISSUE

The "Town Pump" took a forced vacation and so the August issue has been omitted. We say forced vacation because of the uncertainties that faced us as we met to assemble that months's number.

The first uncertainty was the dearth of enough news. There was plenty of Big News in the air but not enough little news - from you - where you are and what you're doing. So we kept postponing our press date, and the first thing you know, we had the real, long awaited news. The Japs had accepted unconditional surrender.

Very frankly, the "Town Pump" took a side-seat during those first days that followed, but as we settled back to our jobs we began to wonder how our news letter would ever reach you now with so much redeployment and changing of addresses.

However, we are taking that chance, but please let us know your latest addresses as they change, and please won't you drop us a line as to what you're doing, seeing, and how you're feeling

SERVICEMEN'S NEWS

"Fuszy" Foresman AMM 2/c writes that he is still "about" at the Ottumwa, Iowa, Naval Air Base and is very busy with his work in the machine shop there, which he says is turning out valuable jobs and plenty of them.

He has recently found an apartment to live in, which he has wanted and for which he and his bride have been looking since they arrived there. Few selections and extremely high prices have kept them confined in rather unsatisfactory living quarters. He says "now we can really live."

Some sailor unloaded a "jalopy" on him. He says it would run all right if he could find a couple of tires that would offer a little more security to his travels.

He ventured to the Air Base in it one day and got there O.K.

At the end of his day's work, he just got started and peacefully relaxed for his drive home, and bang went a front tire. Not having a jack by which he could put on another old piece of rubber, he said his "prayers" to "jalopy" and took the bus home to his "wifey" and little "villa".

We haven't heard from him since and wonder if the jalopy is still "parked" waiting for the arrival of a jack which he wrote his father to send to him from Ashby.

R.T. Leon Evans 2/c is at the Navy School of Radio Engineering in Dearborn, Michigan for thirteen months training. His wife and child are staying there with him.

Robert Pillsbury, who was inducted last June, is stationed at Camp Blanding, Fla.

Pvt. Oiva Rauhala, another one of the new inductees, is at Camp Clairborne, La.

Charles Pillsbury is working at the Navy Yard at Hunters Point, San Francisco.

Roland Pillsbury, G.M. 2/c has returned to Norfolk after a thirty day furlough.

Aura Louhi has been promoted to First Lieutenant. She is stationed at Patterson Field, Fairfield, Ohio. Recently, Lt. Louhi met an Ashby boy, Chester Hardy, who was in the hospital there at the field.

Toivo Leibeck has returned home after many months in England and is now at the Lovell General Hospital recooperating from an operation.

Ina Javela, A.R.C. has recently spent a leave at home after doing Red Cross work in New Guinea. She is now in Florida recovering from a serious skin disease contracted while overseas.

Waino Pesola has been home on a short furlough from his camp in No. Carolina.

After 38 months inthe Pacific war area, Rodney Caton arrived home without a scratch. Rod's group, originally the Ohio State Guard, was at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, and the invasion of Luzon, and the capture of Manilla. He spoke very highly of the native Phillipines and how well educated they are. Also he said the destruction in Manilla is so terrible it will take at least 10 years to repair the damages. Rodney has been discharged from the army on the point system.

Donald Rackliffe has finished his three weeks of ship training and is now back at the base at Sheepshead Bay. He is attending school for the advanced engines course. Donald is a member of the barracks swimming team. In the swimming meet, recently held, his team won the complete meet. Albert Schlermer has completed the advanced engines course and is now receiving his ship training.

Richard Wilkinson is home on furlough at present. He expects to sail for the Pacific sometime in Sept. On his boat there will be 500 nurses going out for Pacific service.

Jack Woodruff has been promoted to Private First Class and is now at sheet metal school at Chanute Field, Ill.

T/Sgt. Ralph Varney is now stationed at Laon, France in the Air Transport Command. He recently spent a 10 day furlough in England.

Robert Varney U.S.M.S. recently left N.Y. for France, on a troop transport and expects to be away for 17 days.

We have heard that Robert Goguen, who is now in Austria, has been appointed regimental painter.

We haven't been able to put the "bee" on Fred Erickson, but he is now home with an honorable discharge from the Navy. His last assignment was on Guam, and we understand his next assignment is hunting and fishing, ad infinitum. . . .

John Damon, who has managed to get home for two weekends is now stationed at Willow Grove, Pa. and thinks he is headed once more for the West Coast.

Just to let you know where the Elliott boys are and what they are doing--Wallace has recently reported to Sacremento, Cal. after a furlough in Ashby. Warren is at the Convalescent Hospital at Camp Edwards, but manages to spend frequent weekends with his mother. Clarence, after much time in the hospital in Austria, has rejoined his outfit.

Dick Leighton expects to be stationed at the Marine base at Cherry Point, N.C. for a few months.

Paul Bernhardt of the Merchant Marine has completed his ships training at Baltimore, Md. and is reporting back to Sheepshead Bay, New York.

Sgt. Russell Fors is in Saipan. He wrote that when he arrived there he had a large number of letters and the Town Pump waiting for him.

A letter from Thomas Hanson E.M. 3/c USCG to his mother tells about a surprise meeting with his brother Andrew, MoMM 2/c USCG in San Pedro, Cal. Andrew was transferred from convoy duty in the Caribbean Sea to the South Pacific. He is on a submarine chaser. Tom has gone aboard a new all-electric ship which is a gun boat. It was to be commissioned the 24th of July. It has a crew of 365 men and will be on duty in the South Pacific. His wife, the former Jane Simonds, has returned to her home in Ashby, from Alameda, California.

Sgt. Wallace Johnson is spending a 30 day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Johnson of Davis Road. A brother, Stanley Johnson, is stationed in Panama.

Robert Piper has been discharged from the Army under the point system.

Arnold Piper is now recuperating in the hospital in California from a concussion received in a fall.

Charles Caton has been shipped out of his basic training for a 90 day period of T.D. work detail at Ft. Dix, N.J. He is typing and driving a truck which to him is real luxury after breaking in his feet to the infantry.

BIRTHDAYS

Eino Malm	Sept. 1
Rudolph Salo	Sept. 2
Leslie Kinkaid	Sept. 7
Mark Thatcher	Sept. 8
Robert Jarvi	Sept. 11
Robert Varney	Sept. 20
Roland Pillsbury	Sept. 22

TOWN NEWS

Mrs. Harold White and Mr. Luther Hayes are members of the Gallon Club of the Red Cross Blood Bank in Fitchburg. Members of this club have donated a pint of blood on each of the 8 times the mobile unit has come to Fitchburg. Congratulations are in order.

While digging in her garden recently, Mrs. Erma Brooks of Main St., unearthed a U.S. penny

with the date 1817 clearly inscribed on it. On the face is a woman's head wearing a crown with the name Liberty and surrounded with 15 stars. On the back is a wreath with the words "one cent".

Mr. and Mrs. Matti Honkala have announced the engagement of their daughter, Elsie, to S/Sgt Sulo Piispanen of Fitchburg.

Fred Foresman has been made Chairman of the United War Fund in Ashby.

Emil Doecekal, who has enlisted in the Army was given a farewell party recently at the Willard Brook Reservation. About 35 friends attended. He was presented with a serviceman's watch and a sum of money. He was scheduled to leave Aug. 16 but due to the holidays, his induction has been post poned.

Mrs. Fred Foresman returned home Saturday, Aug. 4, from the Burbank hospital where she has been recovering from injuries received from a fall from a step ladder.

The General Electric Company after leasing the Putnam Plant for several years had decided to buy it and operate in Fitchburg after the war. About thirty new families are to move from Lynn to the Fitchburg plant to supplement the office staff. The Leightons, the Witbecks, the Bursacks, and the Flanders all expect to remain with the Fitchburg plant.

Harold and Betty Doolittle have just comback from Arizona by way of California and are now located in East Jaffrey, N.H.

The local Red Cross has recently conducted a very successful swimming project. There were 61 youngsters registered--ranging from 3 to 13 years of age. Eino Pernaa was on board with his school bus to transport the class from the Red and White store to Demon Pond.

Mr. Forrest Hallet of Rhode Island was the instructor and did a grand job in the 6 lessons which was all the time he could give.

Mrs. Dorothy Hargraves, assisted by Dorothy Hugo, Mrs. Frank Loungo and Mrs. Clarence Wright had charge of the water safety program.

The Jarcy Club sponsored their second Paper Drive of the year during the month of July. Although the amount collected was not as much as last winter, the club collected 1625 lbs. for the Fitchburg paper mills, of books and magazines, and 3470 lbs. of newspaper. A total amount of 2½ tons.

Mrs. Adelaide A. Wright, Ashby's oldest resident, who will be 93 this 24th of October writes the following poem for us.

"I am nearly 93
I am just as happyas I can be
The rose is red
The violet blue
We've licked the Japs and the Germans, too."

Mrs. Wright, as you may know is the mother of Mrs. Lucy Bingham, Mrs. Idelle Blackwood, and Mr. Clarence Wright, all of Ashby.

THE THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop continues to do a rushing business at its new location, the vestry of the Congregational Church. One can spend an interesting hour just sitting on the side lines and watching the sales made by a very alert group of saleswomen. The committee does not hesitate to accept

anything anyone may give as there is sure to be somebody looking for that very article. It has been the aim of the Thrift Shop to sometime buy new tables and chairs for the vestry and it looks now as if that dream may come true in the not too distant future. These chairs will take the place of the long settees which will no doubt be seen on the lawns of some of the towns-people soon. The Thrift Shop, being closer to the common has brought a bigger crowd each Wednesday night as well as bigger receipts. The only comp plaint the workers have so far is that they are so busy that they don't hear the concert and have no time to go and get a bag of popcorn.

CHURCH NEWS

Mr. Edward J. Arnold has accepted the call to the ministry of the Congregational Church. He, with Mrs. Arnold, will arrive in Ashby soon and will make their residence in the church parsonage on Main Street. Mr. Arnold will commence his church service on Sunday, September 2nd. Both Mr. and Mrs. Arnold will continue, for the next year, their educational courses at the Andover-Newton Theological Institution at Newton Center, Mass. and will spend from Friday until Monday of each week in connection with their service in the church.

The Pastoral Supply Committee of the church are very pleased that Mr. and Mrs. Arnold could accept their call to the church and this community in which they are keenly interested.

Wally Hill writes from Camp Gordon, Georgia: "Received my second edition of the Town Pump today and I thought I'd write my thanks right away while I had time. There are two things in the month that I look forward to and they are the Town Pump and the payroll."

Wally has traveled considerably but seen little as most of his time was spent making up lost sleep. The weather is hot and the rainstorms make the red clay just wonderful 'ooze'.

BIRTHS

A son, George William, to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Saari, on July 16.

A daughter, Judith Ann, to T/Sgt. and Mrs. Henry Lambert, on July 24th. Mrs. Lambert is the former Dorothy Conroy who taught at Lyman School.

A daughter on Aug. 3 to EM3/c Thomas Hanson and Mrs. Hanson. She is the former Jane Simonds.

A son, David Adrian, to Mr. and Mrs. Jalma Aho on Aug. 12. Mrs. Aho is the former Elmi Frigard.

WEDDINGS

On Saturday, August the 4th, Dorothy Olsen was married to Frederick Chandler, U.S.N. at the Woodbury Union Church in Conimicut, R.I. Marion Ledburg, Dot's cousin, was the maid of honor, and Albert Olson was the best man. The couple went to Springfield on their wedding trip.

First Lieutenant Marjorie Bennett AnC was married to Victor D'Atre MM2/c, son of Mr.&Mrs. John D'Atre of Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y. on Saturday, August the 18th. Mr and Mrs. Bennett went to N.Y. for the ceremony. The couple were married in their uniforms. The Bridegroom has spent 38 months in the Pacific war area with the Seabees and has to report to the West Coast on Sept. 1st. The bride spent 31 months overseas and is now stationed at Camp Edwards, Mass.

Renice Bennett and Albert Olson were married July 25th in Townsend at the home of her brother, Lyman Bennett. After a trip to Cape Cod, the couple will reside in Fitchburg.

Martha Mossman, ARC, of Newton and Ashby and Capt. Emmitt Stephens of Gilmer, Tex., were married in Christ Church on Aug. 3. The bride is on leave from duty at the Chelsea Naval Hospital and the groom recently returned from overseas service with an air service group.

DEATHS

Mrs. Earle Dudley died July 13, at her home in West Townsend. Mrs. Dudley was the mother of Donald and Roderick Brooks and Lennice Brooks.

BAND CONCERTS

During July and August, every Wednesday night has been "Band Concert Night" and each one of those nights has been a gala night in town, attended by well over a thousand people from far and wide. Every square foot of the common has been occupied by autos and people, and an over-available space in the adjoining streets. A crew of helpers have served in the sale of sandwiches, tonics and popcorn, and what a business is done! Approximately 800 bottles of tonic, an equal amount of popcorn, and nearly as many sandwiches, spiced ham and hamburg, hot dogs too, have been dispensed each week.

A new innovation has appeared at the Band Concerts each Wednesday night. The old Bernhardt school bus has had its face lifted and now accommodates a very swanky hotdog and popcorn stand. The motor and top were removed, shelves were built in and a coat of paint makes it look like a million dollars. The stand is pulled up to the common, plugged into the electricity and in about two minutes the boys and girls are five deep clamoring for a bag of popcorn and/or a hotdog--with mustard.

The band, led by Mr. Fred Bernhardt, has received full and hearty ovations from the crowds, so as to leave no doubt that they are well pleased with the well selected programs and the cooperation of every player to deliver the kind of music which pleases them. Features of the programs have been vocal solos by our own Arthur Loveland, who for many seasons has been most popularly received. Also, our own Dorothy Wilder with clarinet solos, has been an especially well received feature.

The concerts are attracting tremendous crowds and deservedly so for Fred Bernhardt Sr. and his players are doing a magnivicent job of bringing good music to Ashby.

Our own "Gippy" is still in the lead with the drums. His solos and general cooperation bring the same enthusiastic applause as always.

Last Wednesday night, the members of the band paid honor to Walter by announcing that it was his birthday which brought a thundering ovation. Walter acknowledged the courtesy of all by rising and saluting his sponsors, and in answer to a request to tell his age, Walter said "Well, I tell you boys, I'm somewhere between forty and one hundred, and because I haven't recovered from the Jap surrender celebrations and had to pull myself together to render my services tonight, you can chalk me up for nearer the hundred."

There well be two more concerts this season. The last one will be on the night of the Grange Fair. This Fair will be the first one sponsored by the Grange since a few years past, and this one will mark the beginning of the revival of these Fairs as an annual event.